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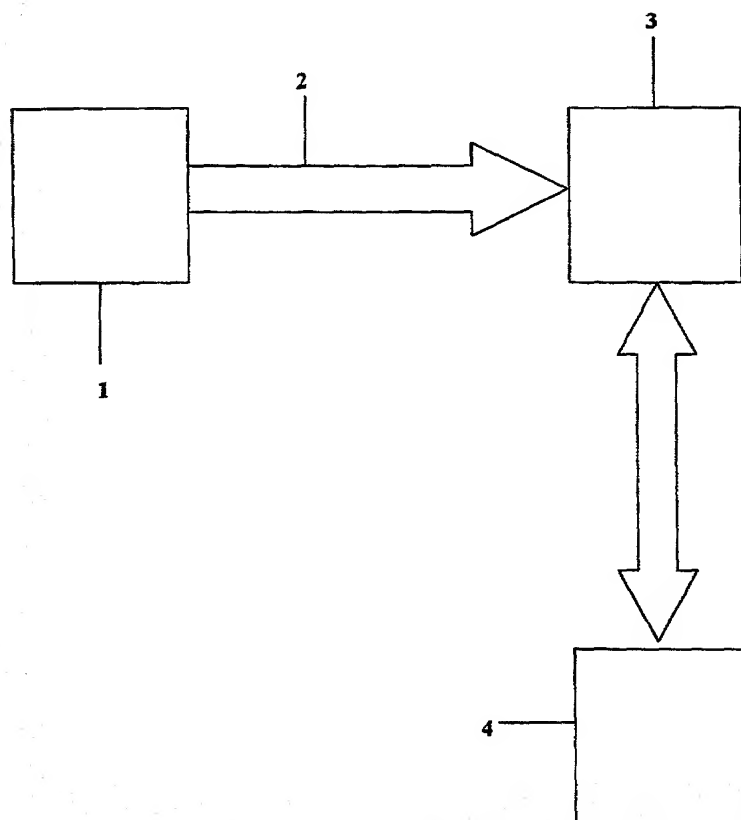
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(54) Title: IDENTIFICATION OF COMPUTERS



(57) Abstract: A method of identifying a computer connected on-line to a remotely located site, comprises the steps of: searching a hard disk associated with the computer for identifying element inherent to the computer; and combining the identifying element, when found, together with other identifying information associated with the hardware of the computer, to form a unique identifier for that computer. The unique identifier for the computer is compared to a store of such unique identifiers available to the remote site. If the unique identifier is present in the store, it is matched to data which is available to the remote site and which is associated with that unique identifier. If the unique identifier is not present in the store, then it is stored in the store, and recorded against data associated with that computer.

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